



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



VA SECRETARY ROBERT WILKIE VISITS STATE VETERANS HOME

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie visited the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home this week. Superintendent Brad Richardson and Physical Plant Manager Tom Inman provided the Secretary and his team with a tour of the Home and the biomass plant.

"It was truly a great honor to have Secretary Wilkie tour our state veterans home," said SDDVA Secretary Greg Whitlock. We are extremely proud of our team and the great job they do in taking care of our heroes every day.

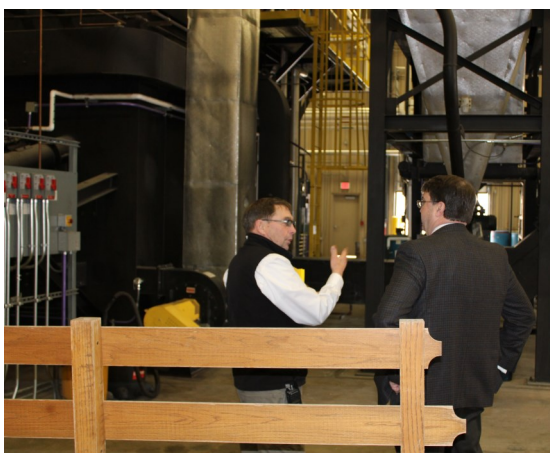


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Secretary Wilkie presented challenge coins to veterans while touring the Home and thanked them for their service.

SDDVA staff had the opportunity to brief Wilkie on the new solar plant that will be constructed at the Home.



WILKIE MEETS WITH SOUTH DAKOTA LEADERS

During his recent visit to South Dakota, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie had the opportunity to meet with Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds, Congressman Dusty Johnson, Governor Kristi Noem, SDDVA Secretary Whitlock, VABHHCS Director Sandra Horsman., Oglala Sioux Tribal Veterans Service Officer Shawnee Red Bear and Darrell Hernandez, Fall River County Veterans Service Officer Dan Cullen and numerous members of the “Save the VA” delegation.

Wilkie stated that “veterans seeking health-care solutions in the Black Hills footprint will continue to receive full services at the Hot Springs Veterans Affairs Medical Center for the foreseeable future.” Previously this campus was identified for closure in a 2017 order. Wilkie plans to review the 2017 Record of Decision.

Wilkie noted that the facility will not close, but we will have to implement programs to make sure it stays vibrant and healthy.

Before departing South Dakota, Secretary Wilkie also visited the Vet Center in Rapid City.



RECENT CTVSO CHANGES

Recent changes in our county and tribal veterans services officer network include the following changes.

Milton Douglas has been hired as the new Tripp County VSO. Many of you might remember Milt from when he served as Harding County VSO a few years ago. Milt’s office hours will be from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. His email address is: mdouglas@trippcounty.us.

Currently the VSO positions in Hyde and Ziebach Counties are vacant due to the death of Robert Sheffield and the retirement of Harold Viet. Both counties hope to have replacements named by month end.

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

During the recent State American Legion midwinter conference in Oacoma, Department Adjutant Travise Flisrand announced he is resigning from his position for personal reasons. Flisrand noted he was willing to stay on until the right person is identified and trained to take on this important position for the SD American Legion.

Travise has been a great leader in carrying out the American Legion's mission to mentor the youth, advocate patriotism and enhance the lives of veterans and their families.

Wanáħma Wóglakapi Wičhóħ'an Wakħāŋ
(Talking to Hide Things-Code Talkers Ceremony)

"The Language that was Forbidden - Changed the Outcome of the War"

HONORING CEREMONY CODE TALKER MEDAL PRESENTATION

for

GUY GEORGE CHAPMAN
CODE TALKER - WW I

AT

Wakpa Sica Reconciliation Center
Ft. Pierre, South Dakota

Date: 3 April 2020

Time: 11:00 AM (CST)



SDDVA PARTICIPATES IN 2020 B.I.G. CAREER FAIR

This week our SDDVA team hosted a booth at the 2020 BIG Career and Internship Fair in Sioux Falls. The Fair was sponsored by the South Dakota Association of College Career Centers and had over 140 vendors.

Representing the SDDVA team was Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard, Program Manager Erin Brown and MJFSVH Business Manager Jeff Haiar.

The Fair offered a [Career Fairs +](#) app this year that allowed students to view the list of employers including links to websites and filters for position type and industry, a map of the event, announcements, and description of additional events.

The Fair also offered several additional workshops for students to attend throughout the fair, such as LinkedIn workshops, walk-in résumé and/or LinkedIn profile review station, professional headshots, and a JCPenney professional dress station.

In addition, LinkedIn offered a special session for employers. The session focused on how to leverage the LinkedIn platform to grow your personal and company's brand and guide you with hiring strategies.

Students and alumni from the following post-secondary institutions across the state of South Dakota participated in the Fair:

- Augustana University
- Black Hills State University
- Black Hills State University – Rapid City
- Dakota State Institute
- Dakota Wesleyan University
- Lake Area Technical Institute
- Mitchell Technical Institute
- Mount Marty College
- Northern State University
- South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
- South Dakota State University
- South Dakota Teacher Placement Center
- Southeast Technical Institute
- University of Sioux Falls
- University of South Dakota
- Western Dakota Technical Institute.





WHEN
April 30, 2020
6:00 p.m.

WHERE
Froiland Science Complex
Augustana University
Corner of 33rd Street and South Summit Avenue

For more information contact:

Nic Brokenleg · (605) 336-3230 EXT. 5018 ·

Becca Bixler · (605) 336-3230 EXT. 7720 ·



SYNOPSIS

THE WEIGHT OF HONOR is the first comprehensive documentary to chronicle the lives of caregivers and families of Veterans who have been catastrophically wounded in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The film's subjects are five spouses and one mother who give a rare glimpse into their lives, as everyone grapples with finding a 'new normal' after the devastating effects of war time injuries. Filmed over five years, in many states, this journey reveals the thoughts and struggles of the caregivers tasked with the 24/7 care of once able-bodied and self-assured sons and husbands but are now dependent on others. The life of the caregiver is often unsung and hidden. THE WEIGHT OF HONOR reveals disrupted lives, ongoing uncertainties, and the courage and strength of these women as they make a new home during the most calamitous time of their lives. Included are key interviews with Veterans who are now serving in Congress and experts who give their insight into the new reality of what it means for a wounded warrior to come home.

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

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VA PUBLISHES PROPOSED REGS TO IMPROVE ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will publish a [proposed rule](#) in the Federal Register March 6 that would improve and standardize the [VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers \(PCAFC\)](#) and ensure the program regulations reflect changes required by the [VA MISSION Act of 2018](#).

A component of the [Caregiver Support Program](#), the PCAFC was established in 2011 to provide additional benefits including a monthly stipend for qualifying family caregivers of eligible veterans who were seriously injured in the line of duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

In the proposed rule, the VA seeks to standardize eligibility by expanding the definition of serious injury to include any service-connected disability — regardless of whether it resulted from an injury, illness, or disease — defining what it means to be in need of personal care services, and ensuring that the eligibility criteria capture the personal care service needs of veterans and servicemembers with cognitive or neurological impairment or mental health conditions, among other things.

Additionally, the VA is proposing changes to the stipend payment methodology, definitions for financial planning and legal services and procedures for revocation and discharge, to include advance notice requirements aimed at improving communication between the VA and PCAFC participants.

The VA's Caregiver Support Program is the first of its kind and addresses the complexity and expense of keeping loved ones out of institutions and at home with their families who provide personalized care. The program offers unparalleled support services including training, peer mentoring, respite care, a telephone support line and self-care courses for caregivers of all veterans enrolled in VA health care who need personal care services.

The regulations are part of a broad effort to strengthen PCAFC in advance of a planned expansion under the MISSION Act which expanded eligibility for PCAFC to eligible veterans from all eras, beginning with those who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975. Two years after the first phase of program expansion, PCAFC will include eligible Veterans who were seriously injured in the line of duty between May 7, 1975 and Sept. 11, 2001. Prior to expanding, the VA must fully implement an information technology (IT) system required by the MISSION Act.

In October 2019 the VA launched a commercial off-the-shelf IT system and expects to complete deployment in late summer or early fall of 2020. The department also standardized operating procedures for the Caregiver Support Program, provided new training for staff and caregivers, and is boosting operational capacity through hiring of additional staff. These changes are necessary as the VA prepares to expand PCAFC.

Learn more about support services available for [caregivers of Veterans](#) or call the Caregiver Support Line at 1-855-260-3274.

The proposed rule will be open for public comment in the Federal Register for 60 days.



MWHF 2020 OFFICIAL FLIGHT DATES

**LYON COUNTY RIVERBOAT FOUNDATION
MISSION 7: 30 MAY 2020**

**THE CLIFFORD & LAVONNE GRAESE
FOUNDATION MISSION 8: 2 JUN 2020**

MISSION 9: 22 AUG 2020

MISSION 10: 19 SEP 2020



MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT

MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT ANNOUNCES A

NEW ONLINE STORE SALE

GET 20% OFF MOST* ITEMS!

www.midwesthonorflight.store

Just use code "newstore" at checkout!

NOW through MARCH 15

*Excludes MWHF DOT Decals, Grounded Coffee bags,
and Sioux City Musketeers FLEX tickets



MIDWEST
HONOR FLIGHT



SUNDAY, APRIL 26 / 10 AM - 1 PM

PANCAKE FEED

Forster Community Center
404 Main Street
Rock Rapids, IA

**FREE WILL
DONATION FOR:**



MIDWEST
HONOR FLIGHT

**HOSTED BY THE
ROCK RAPIDS
AMERICAN LEGION
& VFW POSTS**



MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT DAY OF GIVING



On Tuesday, March 24, 2020, participating Culver's restaurants in Iowa and South Dakota will donate 10% of sales to Midwest Honor Flight.

The mission: to fly WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans to see their memorials in Washington, DC.

Enjoy a delicious meal, benefit a great cause and feel good all over!
A representative of the Midwest Honor Flight will be present at each location from 5-8pm.

Thank you for your support.

IOWA

Culver's of Sioux Center
Culver's of Sioux City - Hamilton Blvd.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Culver's of Rapid City locations
Culver's of Mitchell
Culver's of Yankton
Culver's of Aberdeen
Culver's of Sioux Falls locations
Culver's of Spearfish



culvers.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 6—Drop-In Legal Service for Veterans—DAV Sioux Falls Chapter—1519 W. 51st Street—9:00 am—3:00 pm (CT)

Mar 11—VABHHCS Art Show—Hot Springs VA Campus—Building 1 Rotunda—1:00 pm (MT)

Mar 13—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—VFW Post 1273—Rapid City—10:00 am (MT)

Mar 24—Culvers Day of Giving for Midwest Honor Flight

Mar 25—SD Veterans Council Meeting—PVA Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)

Mar 27-29—SD Vietnam and Era Veterans Reunion—Dakota Sioux Casino—Watertown

Mar 30—SWO Vietnam Veterans Celebration—Dakota Magic Casino—11:30 am—1:30 pm (CT)

Apr 3—Code Talker Medal Presentation—Wakpa Sica Reconciliation Center—Ft. Pierre—11:00 am (CT)

Apr 10-13 State Offices closed

Apr 17—Purple Up day in South Dakota

Apr 21—KELOLAND Career Expo—Rushmore Mall—Rapid City—11:00 am—4:00 pm (MT)

Apr 26—Midwest Honor Flight Pancake Feed Fundraiser—Forster Community Center—Rock Rapids, IA—10:00 (CT)

Apr 30—Weight of Honor Presentation—Froiland Science Complex—Augustana University—Sioux Falls—6:00 pm (CT)

May 8—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Domiciliary Auditorium—Hot Springs VAMC—10:00 am (MT)

May 12—8th Annual WWII Veterans Luncheon—TREA Building—Rapid City—11:00 am (MT)

May 15-17—DAV State Convention—Brookings

May 21-22—PVA Annual Fishing Tournament—Chamberlain

May 25—MJFSVH Memorial Day Car Show—MJFSVH Campus—Hot Springs—11:30 am—3:00 pm (MT)

May 25—State Offices closed for Memorial Day

May 30—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 7

Jun 2—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 8

June 3-7—VFW State Convention—Aberdeen

Jun 18-21—American Legion State Convention—Huron

Jul 10—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Bldg. 145—Room 108—Fort Meade VAMC—10:00 am (MT)

Aug 22—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 9

Aug 24-27—SDDVA Annual Benefit School—Ramkota Conference Center—Pierre

Sep 3—Veterans Day at the SD State Fair

Sep 3-7—SD State Fair

Sep 11—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—VFW Post 1273—Rapid City—10:00 am (MT)

Sep 19—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 10

Oct 26-30—National Summit on Women Veterans Issues (more information coming)

Nov 13—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Domiciliary Auditorium—Hot Springs VAMC—10:00 am (MT)

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